

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A hermetic compressor comprising:
a casing (20) to which including a high pressure chamber, an intake pipe (28) and a discharge pipe; (29) are provided; and
a compression mechanism (21) accommodated within the casing (20) for sucking a refrigerant from the intake pipe, (28) and compressing a the refrigerant, and discharging the refrigerant into the high pressure chamber, in which a high pressure chamber (23) into which the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism (21) flows and which communicates with the discharge pipe (29) is formed within the casing (20), and in which contains lubricant oil retained at a bottom of the high pressure chamber (23) that is supplied to the compression chamber (21),
the hermetic compressor, comprising:
a container member (31) which communicates communicating with a bottom part of the high pressure chamber (23) so as to allow the lubricant oil to flow to and from the container member (31); and
a pressure reduction device means (50) which sucks a gas refrigerant in the container member (31) and sending sends out the thus sucked gas refrigerant to the intake pipe (28) for reducing an inside pressure of the container member (31).
2. (Currently Amended) The hermetic compressor of Claim 1, wherein the pressure reduction device is configured to suck means (50) sucks the gas refrigerant in the container member (31) intermittently.
3. (Currently Amended) The hermetic compressor of Claim 2, wherein the pressure reduction device means (50) includes a gas container (35) and a switching mechanism (51) which switches connection between a condition that the gas

container (35) communicates only with the intake pipe (28) and a condition that the gas container (35) communicates only with the container member (31), and
the pressure reduction device is further configured to operate the switching mechanism to conduct an operation for communicating the gas container (35) with the intake pipe (28) for pressure reduction and alternately with an operation for communicating the gas container (35) with the container member (31) are repeated alternately.

4. (Currently Amended) The hermetic compressor of Claim 3, wherein
the pressure reduction device means (50) includes a communication pipe (34) connected to an upper end of the container member (31) and the intake pipe (28) and having the gas container (35) in the communication pipe (34), and
the switching mechanism (51) is composed of includes opening/closing valves (36, 37) arranged respectively on sides of the gas container (35) in the communication pipe (34).

5. (Currently Amended) The hermetic compressor of Claim 1, wherein
the pressure reduction device means (50) includes a communication pipe (34) connected to an upper end of the container member (31) and the intake pipe (28) and an adjuster valve (40) arranged in the communication pipe (34) and capable of changing a degree of opening thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) The hermetic compressor of Claim 1, further comprising
an oil supply pump (30) which sucks configured to suck the lubricant oil retained at the bottom of the high pressure chamber (23) and supplies it supply the gas refrigerant to the compression mechanism (21),
wherein the container member (31) communicates communicating with the high pressure chamber (23) at a part lower than a level at which the oil supply pump (30) sucks the lubricant oil.

7. The hermetic compressor of Claim 1, wherein further comprising an electric heater (53) is provided for heating liquid in the container member (31).

8. (Currently Amended) A hermetic compressor comprising:
a casing (20) to which including a high pressure chamber, an intake pipe (28) and a discharge pipe (29) are provided; and
a compression mechanism (21) accommodated within the casing (20) for sucking a refrigerant from the intake pipe (28) and compressing a the refrigerant, and discharging the refrigerant into the high pressure chamber, in which a high pressure chamber (23), into which the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism (21) flows and which communicates with the discharge pipe (29) is formed within the casing (20), and in which contains lubricant oil retained at a bottom of the high pressure chamber (23) that is supplied to the compression chamber (23); and
the hermetic compressor, comprising:
a pressure reduction device means (50) which sucks configured to suck a gas refrigerant in the high pressure chamber (23) and sends it send the gas refrigerant to the intake pipe (28) for temporally reducing an inside pressure of the high pressure chamber (23).

9. (Currently Amended) The hermetic compressor of Claim 8, wherein
the pressure reduction device means (50) includes a gas container (35) and a switching mechanism (53) which switches connection between a condition that the gas container (35) communicates only with the intake pipe (28) and a condition that the gas container (35) communicates only with the high pressure chamber (23), and
the pressure reduction device is further configured to operate the switching mechanism to conduct an operation for communicating the gas container (35) with the intake pipe (28) for pressure reduction and alternately with an operation for communicating the gas container (35) with the high pressure chamber (23) are repeated alternately to suck the gas refrigerant in the high pressure chamber (23) intermittently.